Start of Nathan Wertheimer Collection

AR 11885

Sys #: 000409848

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

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AR 11885 VI Nathan Wertheimer Collection, 1939-2002

WRITTEN INFORMATION by SOPHIE WERTHEIMER
Re: 1940's in France

As Translated by Ruth Rosenberg (May 2002)

As the situation in France, and then also in Bellac, for all Jews became very difficult, I had false papers made for myself. They were made under the name of Sophie Weber, nee Engel. I was especially careful to have my initials be as my real ones inasmuch as my linens were thus embroided. For my daughter Ruth, who was then still a child, I did not need extra papers; only my son had some false papers. At one time, when the Germans came through Bellac and made a house search, I gave them these papers as proof, and they said only that they had expired. I then had them extended at the Borough Hall.

The clouding (of the war) was mostly over our side, otherwise I could certainly not have withstood this period of time. Neighbors, Family Dupont, who immediately came to us, who helped us out with household items, let my daughter and myself often stay in an empty house (which belonged to them) for several days, when there was danger. In this house, I hid my Hebrew books, and some other items which I did not want to have fall into German hands.

I gave Mrs. Dupont my brother's address in America, I continuously thought about the worst. I wanted to have my daughter taken care of in a convent in Haute-Vienne, I went there by bike, but it was overfilled and they could not take any more children.

Another family, Lajoux, helped me a lot, inasmuch as they gave me groceries and heating supplies. They had a small house in a very small village; this village had perhaps 10 houses, was cut off from everything, no train; and this they offered me also in case of need.

I had taken my jewelry to Limoges, where acquaintances had buried it.

We lived in constant fear. When I had to go a distance to get groceries, and my daughter was alone at home, I was always glad when we were happily together again.

From my son, who was hidden under false papers, with a farmer, I heard nothing for a long time.

A - 57380

TRADUCTION

Section Consulaire de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne
à Paris.

D.A.

A Monsieur Nathan Wertheimer, 10 Square d'Aquitaine
Paris 19ème.

Votre lettre du 12/7/38
Notre référence. K 276.37 Wertheimer
Date: le 22/8/1938.

Suivant Publication sous N° 118 du Journal Officiel de l'Empire en date du 23 mai de cette année, vous et votre épouse avez perdu la nationalité allemande.

Signature illisible.

Pour traduction certifiée conforme à son original en Allemand, marqué par moi N°14.002.
Paris, le 28 octobre 1939.

TRADUCTEUR JURE
Paul PADVA
77, Rue Taitbout
Paris
TRIBUNAL DE LA SEINE

Vu pour certification matérielle de la signature de M. PADVA apposée ci-dessus.
Paris, le 28 octobre 1939
Le Commissaire de police

R. F. SS
Sicherheits-Dienst
Nachrichten-Uebermittlung

XXV C - 01

Aufgenommen Tag Monat Jahr Zeit	Befordert Tag Monat Jahr Zeit	Raum für Eingangsstempel
von durch	an 8. März 1943 durch	
	Verzögerungsvermerk	
Nr. 122[illegible]		

Telegramm — Funkspruch — Fernschreiben — Fernspruch

IV B - BdS - SA 225a
Rö./Ne.

Paris, den 6. März 1943

1. An das
Reichssicherheitshauptamt
IV B 4 a
z.Hdn. von SS-Obersturmbannführer Eichmann o.V.i.A.
B e r l i n .

2. An den
Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei
und des SD
K r a k a u .

3. An den
Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei
und des SD
L u b l i n .

Am 6.3.1943 um 8,55 Uhr hat der Transportzug Nr. 901 den Abgangsbahnhof Le Bourget-Drancy bei Paris in Richtung Cholm mit insgesamt 1000 Juden verlassen.

Der erfaßte Personenkreis entspricht den gegebenen Richtlini

Transportführer ist der Oberleutnant der Ordnungspolizei Kassel, dem die namentliche Transportliste in zweifacher Ausfertigung mitgegeben wurde.

Abtransport

6. 3. 43

51

B. d. S. - F r a n k r e i c h

Ref. IV 4 b

Abschubliste: 51

) - WEITMAN Mozels	24.6.98 Bloge Polonaise	Martel (Lot) Agriculteur
I - WEITZMANN Marcus	29.12.00 Mosriska Polonaise	Bucheberg (Creuse) Tailleur
2 - WEKSLER Szmul	12.12.00 Slzadek Polonaise	Quai du Cher-Montluçon Manoeuvre
3 - WELTMAN Hertzel	20.3.86 Braskow Polonaise	Martel (Lot) Ouvrier agricole
4 - WERTEL Gidelza	21.2.99 Varsovie Indéterminée	St-Just les Jumelles (Cor.) Tricoteur
5 - WERTHEIMER Nathan	19.5.97 Strasbourg Apatride	Auzon (Hte-Loire) Négociant
6 - WIKNER Samuel	26.9.88 Pisare Polonaise	11 rue J.Beauvais- Paris Tailleur
37 - WIERUSZEWSKI Abraham	17.3.98 Warta Apatride	38 Bd.Wilson- Strasbourg S.P.
38 - WIERUSZEWSKI Chil	14.1.97 Warta Ex-Polonais	6 Metzgergisen -Strasbourg Chantre
39 - WILCZEK Mayer	12.12.00 Wittebsk Ref.Russe	Cure Couturier
90 - WILDMAN Szuga	15.3.95 Rozienise Polonaise	15 rue des Alliés-Brioude Md Forain
191 - WILENSKI Rubin	18.3.08 Ivenetz Polonaise	8r.des Pommes de Poitiers Coll.Saout. Perpignan
192 - WILF Israel	16.6.96 Bialestok Ref.Russe	14 rue du Pont Mouja-Nancy Ajusteur
193 - WILFF Léon	2.7.93 Kovno Polonaise	53 rue des Archives- Paris Bijoutier
194 - WINAUER Joseph	3.4.96 Varsovie Polonaise	51 rue Forné des Villettes Issoudun Maroquinier
195 - WINTER Norbert	1.1.24 Berlin Apatride	Septfonds Elève agricole

.....

Convoy 50, March 4, 1943

This list is in very poor condition. Over time the names have rubbed off the onion skin, and it is very difficult to decipher them.

Counting deportees by nationality we found 377 Poles, 268 Germans, 99 Austrians, 91 Russians, and 30 Dutch among the largest groups. One person was from Java.

There were 937 men and 66 women, according to the list. Only five children were in this convoy. Almost the entire quota of Convoys 50 and 51 was male, as described above.

The list is in two parts:

1. Gurs--888 deportees, all men between 16 and 65.
2. Drancy--136 deportees, with 22 crossed out (leaving 114), The sublist included the 66 women. Most of the people resided in or around Paris. Two sets of sisters on the lists are: Suzanne (1) and Marie (9) Levi, and Lisette (11) and Suzanne (7) Tchoukroun.

The routine telex, dated March 4 (XXVc-211), was signed by Rothke. It announced to the recipients, among them Eichmann, that on the same day 1,000 Jews left the station at Le Bourget/Drancy (see section below on destination) for Cholm--the word Auschwitz is crossed out--under the supervision of Lieutenant Ott.

One deportee, Jacob Silber, escaped from this convoy. His escape and transfer to Auschwitz after recapture are related in documents XXVc-216 and 220.

Convoy 51, March 6, 1943

List 51 is in the same deplorable condition as list 50. The nationalities most heavily represented in this convoy were: Polish (554); German; Russian; Austrian; and Dutch. There were 959 men and 39 women. The men were between 16 and 65, with most between 37 and 49. There were two children.

List 51 is divided into three sublists:

1. Gurs--926 names, all men.
2. Drancy--62 deportees, including the 39 women. All were from Paris.
3. Special list--12 deportees.

The routine telex (XXVc-215) indicated that the convoy left Le Bourget/Drancy on March 6 at 8:55 AM with 1,000 Jews in the direction of Cholm, with an escort headed by Oberlieutenant Kassel (pencilled above his name is that of "Uhlemann").

The escape and capture of a Dutch Jews, Sal de Leuve, from this convoy are the subject of two documents (XXVc-231).

DESTINATION OF CONVOYS 50 AND 51: SOBIBOR AND MAIDANEK

According to Danuta Czech's study in the publication of the State Museum at Auschwitz ("Zeszyty Oswiecimskie," no. 4-1960; pp. 81-82), two convoys arrived in Auschwitz from Drancy on March 6 and 8, 1943; and, allegedly, all deportees were immediately gassed, without any selections for work. Based on these facts, A. Rutkowski ("Le Monde Juif," no. 57-58, 1970; pp. 45-46) presumed that these two convoys actually did go to Auschwitz.

But it must be remembered that Czech's calendar includes a number of serious errors concerning the Jews of France. On this specific subject, the calendar is based on information from the CDJC in Paris (see section on Methodology). The facts known about these two convoys must be examined:

I. The destination of the two convoys as stated in the telexes of departure

a. The telexes of March 4 (XXVc-211) and March 6 (XXVc-215) do not mention two of the three usual recipients of all the preceding departure telexes. Like the others, these were addressed to Eichmann in Berlin. But instead of going, in addition, to the Inspector of the KZ in Oranienburg and the camp of Auschwitz, these were addressed to the head of Security Services of Police (BdS of the SiPo-SD) in Krakow and in Lublin. Maidanek is in the Lublin area.

b. The destination indicated on the two telexes is Cholm. The station at Cholm is, like the camp of Maidanek, in the Lublin area.

c. In the archives of the Ministry for War Veterans (file 43; packet 71) a list from the National French Railways indicates "Solibar" for these two convoys, though what was probably meant was "Sobibor," another extermination camp also in the Lublin district.

II. The survivors

In 1945 there were survivors from these two convoys, contrary to the indications of the Auschwitz calendar (which were then repeated by A. Rutkowski). According to the handwritten manuscript of these survivors held by the Ministry of War Veterans, four men had survived from the March 4 convoy and five from the March 6 convoy. We obtained the records (on cards) of these nine men from the Ministry of War Veterans:

a. The convoy of March 4:

Simon-Andre Cerf, no. 94 on the deportation list, born September 24, 1922, in Esch/Azette; no indication of the camp to which he arrived but his number in Auschwitz was 129173.

Hirsz Jurga, no. 380 on the list, born December 12, 1923, in Warsaw; "according to information furnished by his family, deported to Lublin-Maidanek;" his number in Auschwitz was 129349.

Jonas Erlich; no. 162 on the list, born May 11, 1924 in Lublin; "transferred on July 11 to Auschwitz, no. 129216."

Paul Feigenbaum; no. 168 on the list, born August 9, 1922, in Vienna. No other indications than that of his departure and his repatriation to France.

b. The convoy of March 6:

David Albert Adejes; no. 6 on the list, born December 21, 1922, in Salonika; No. 129114 in Auschwitz; "according to his own declaration, deported to Maidanek from March 10, 1943 to July 14, 1943, then to Birkenau from July 14 to October, 1943; repatriated May 27, 1945.

Ernst Arndt; no. 26 on the list; born September 11, 1900 at Coronuwo, Poland; "according to his declaration, deported to Lublin-Maidanek on March 10, 1943, to March 23, 1943, then to Budzyn...repatriated on April 23, 1945."

Szaja Mendel Fuks; no. 241 on the list; born May 15, 1923 in Warsaw; "according to his declarations, Lublin-Maidanek, then Auschwitz; no. 129227."

Maurice Jablonsky; no. 360 on the list, born February 23, 1924 in Warsaw; "according to his own testimony: Lublin-Maidanek from March to July, 1943 (no. 10873) then Birkenau for 8 days, no. 129348; repatriated on May 11, 1945.

Nathan Lewinsztejn, no. 490, born June 20, 1913 in Lublin; "according to his own statement, Maidanek from March 10, 1943 to March 26, then Budzyn. Repatriated on August 24, 1945."

Thus the definitive bits of information from the March 4 convoy are the three Auschwitz numbers--129173, 129216, and 129349--which are close to each other and which were given to Cerf, Erlich, and Jurga, and the date of Erlich's transfer to Auschwitz. But where was he transferred from? An answer is found in the Auschwitz calendar under the date July 11, 1943 (Z.O., no. 4; p. 117): "Transport of prisoners from the camp of Maidanek, 763 Jews who are given numbers 128951 to 129713."

So we can establish without question that:

1. The six deportees bearing Auschwitz numbers (Adejes, March 6, 129114; Cerf, March 4, 129173; Erlich, March 4, 129216; Fuks, March 6, 129227; Jablonski, March 6, 129348; Jurga, March 4, 129349) were transferred from Maidanek to Auschwitz on July 11, 1943, in a transfer of 763 men and absorbed into Auschwitz alphabetically.
2. Two deportees (Arndt and Lewinsztejn, both from the convoy of March 6) were transferred on March 26 from Maidanek to Budzyn.
3. The six deportees of the March 6 convoy who returned declared that they were deported to Maidanek.

It is possible, as claimed in a 1981 declaration of Maurice Jablonsky to the author, that the trains stopped first in Sobibor, where the greatest part of the convoy was annihilated in the gas chambers, and that only a part of the convoy was sent, a few hours later, to nearby Maidanek. This seems logical, since the gas chambers at Maidanek were small and had not been built for mass extermination as at Sobibor.

The conclusion, very clearly, is that the two convoys of March 4 and March 6 were sent to Sobibor and Maidanek. But we cannot know how many people were selected and how many were immediately gassed. Almost nothing remains in the way of archives from either place.

There is an eyewitness account of a resistance fighter from the Warsaw ghetto, who was transferred from Maidanek to Auschwitz in June, 1943, which tells of conditions that must have been similar to the July transfers ("Amities France-Israel," No. 243; June, 1977: p. 59).

Brionde, February 24, 1943

My dear Sophie and my dear children,

I have well received your package for which I say thank you, and your letter of February 22 and I hope that your health will have improved.

I find myself on the way to Gurs with Max, and I will send you my address from there.

I really hope that you will overcome everything, as I do, in tranquility in the hope of better times.

I embrace you strongly and with a thousand kisses, I remain,

Your faithful
Nathan & Papa

Le Puy, February 25, 1942

My dear ones,

We arrived here today, and tomorrow with still other comrades, arrive in Gurs.

I suspect that from Chabreuges there was a trap set for us because according to a directive of the Police in Clermont-Ferrand , we are to be transferred to Gurs. Further information we can only obtain in Gurs, I will keep you further informed.

I am somewhat more calm than yesterday, because I am convinced that the mistake will soon be clarified. Where was Mr. Stein taken? Please write to me in Gurs for the time being, without barrack number.

Heartiest kisses to all from
Your darling
Nathan & Papa

Brioude, dim 24-2-43

Ma chère Sophie et mes chers enfants,

J'ai bien reçu ton paquet dont je te dis merci et ta lettre du 22/2 et j'espère que ta santé sera améliorée.

Je me trouve avec Max en route vers Brive et je me réserve de t'envoyer de là-bas mon adresse.

J'espère bien que tu supporteras tout comme moi en tranquilité avec l'espoir des temps meilleurs.

Je vous embrasse très fort et avec mille baisers je reste

votre fidèle
Nathan et Papa

Gurs, March 1, 1943

My dear ones,

I hope you are well, and in receipt of various letters, and today's telegram in which I sadly had to advise you of my new address. Here there is at present a large departure and arrivals, one asks oneself when will it end this time?. I also spoke to our dear Gusti today and many others. Here one has time to think back about all the past, and today it is already one month since I returned from that nice furlough, when will I again have the luck to spend time with you? How are the dear parents, are they already in the new apartment, please advise them of my address. Inasmuch as the last communication from you dates back to Feb. 22, I ask you to please let me know about your well being by telegram, because I am already very uneasy not to have any mail from you.

Stay healthy and with heartiest regards and kisses, I remain

Your darling
Nathan & Papa

Camp de Gurs, March 2, 1943

My dear Sophie, my dear children,

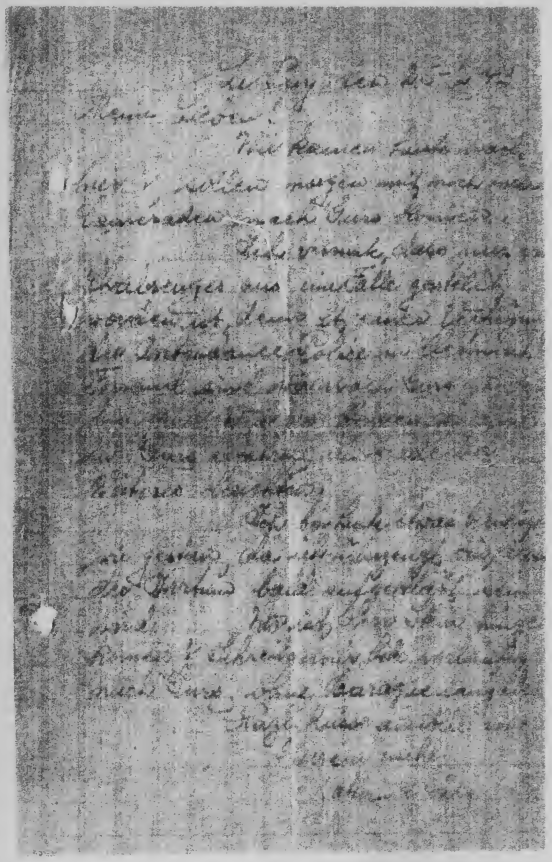
I wrote to you yesterday, and nothing since then, thank G'd, has changed. My worries and my thoughts are of you, my dear ones, may the Almighty leave you in togetherness and protect you from all evil. Sadly one is of little hopefulness, so that one must, G'd forbid, be prepared for it, to still have to live apart a longer time. I am, thank G'd, very resolute, I am not concerned about the work, and I trust in our benevolent Father who directs all the good and who will bring us together again.
Please inform the dear parents and stay close to them in the future as you have in the past.

Since I do not have the opportunity to keep money, so I return 3000Fr. to you.

Stay healthy, hopefully I can write to you again tomorrow.

Till then, be heartily hugged and kissed,

Your darling
Nathan & Papa



Drancy, March 5, 1943

My dears,

I hope you are all in good health, and this I can confirm on my part.

I regret infinitely that I will not be able to kiss you before my departure, that is why I send you my most cordial greetings and kisses. Be blessed by G'd and stay faithful to your

Nathan & Papa

My dear Sophie,

I congratulate you very strongly for your birthday and I wish you with all my heart a good future with the entire family.

Thousand kisses
Nathan

March 4, 1943

Madame Sofie Wertheimer, 13 Rue Barbes, Bellac

Madame,

Mr. N. Werteimer has asked me to let you know that he left today for a destination unknown. He was courageous, in an excellent morale, and wanted to transmit to you his best regards.

Be in agreement, Madame, of the expression of my distinguished sentiments.

MAX ANSBACHER
Rabbinat au Camp
Camp de Gurs

CARTE POSTALE

CAMP DE GURS BASSES-PYRÉNÉES 6-3 43

EXPÉDITEUR

M.
Max ANSB[illegible]ER
[illegible]
CAMP de [redacted] (B.-P.)

DESTINATAIRE

M. [illegible]
[illegible]
3 rue [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

4.3.43

Madame [illegible] [illegible], [illegible], [illegible]

Madame,

Monsieur [illegible] m'a demandé de vous faire part qu'il est parti ce jour pour une destination inconnue. Il était courageux d'une morale excellente et voudrait vous transmettre ses meilleurs souvenirs.

Veuillez agréer, Madame, l'expression des mes sentiments distingués.

Max ANSBACHER
HABSINAT du CAMP
AUR
CAMP de [illegible]

Mr. Jacob
Service des Internes Civils
LINGE
5 rue de Chaumont
Paris (19th)

Madame Wertheimer
13 rue Barbes
Bellac
(Haute Vienne)

April 16, 1943

We have forwarded to you this day prepaid a package of linen (clothes) of Mr. Wertheimer.

The cost of mailing expenses amount to 38.50 Fr.

Please cover this amount by money order to the address indicated on the other side.

In the meantime, we ask you to accept our salutations.

U.G.I.F.-Centre 26
Le Chef de Service
Jacob

CARTE POSTALE

1f20

EXPÉDITEUR

Mr Jacob

SERVICES CIVILS

[illegible]

rue de Chaumont, 6

PARIS (19e)

DESTINATAIRE

Madame Wertheimer

3 rue Barbès

Bobigny

Paris, le 6 AVRIL 1943

Nous vous avons expédié ce jour en port payé le colis de linge de M Wertheimer

Le montant des frais d'envoi s'élève à FCS: 38.50

Veuillez nous couvrir de cette somme par mandat-carte à l'adresse indiquée au verso.

En cette attente, nous vous prions d'agréer, nos salutations empressées.

U. G. I. F - Centre 26
Le Chef de Service,

[signature]

MEMORIAL DU MARTYR JUIF INCONNU

CENTRE DE DOCUMENTATION JUIVE CONTEMPORAINE

Paris, le 2 mars 1999

Monsieur,

Conformément à votre vœu, nous avons inscrit dans le volume IV du "LIVRE DU SOUVENIR"

à la page : 1212
sous le(s) numéro(s) : 22025

WERTHEIMER Nathan
né le 19.05.1897 à Strasbourg (né le 19.05.1897)

Déporté de Drancy à Auschwitz
par le convoi N° 51
en date du 6 mars 1943

Ce "Livre du Souvenir" est pieusement conservé dans la crypte du Mémorial et, chaque année, s'y déroule la cérémonie d'Hazkara, dédiée aux victimes sans sépulture de la Shoah.

Nous vous prions d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de nos sentiments distingués.

Sarah MIMOUN
Archiviste

YAD VASHEM

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

Hall of Names

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM

יד ושם

רשות הזיכרון לשואת ולגבורה

היכל השמות

Page of Testimony דף עד

דף עד לרישום וחכונחת של הנספים בשואת; נא למלא דף עבור כל נספה בנפרד, בכתב ברור ובאותיות דפוס.

Page of Testimony for commemoration of the Jews who perished during the Holocaust; please fill in a separate form for each victim, in block capitals

Victim's photo. Please write victim's name on back. Do not glue.	Victim's family name: WERTHEIMER, Nathan
Maiden name:	First name (also nicknames):
Previous/other family name:	Title:
Approx. age at death: 46	Date of birth: May 19 1897
Gender: M F	Place of birth: STRASBOURG, FRANCE
Nationality: NONE	Country: GERMANY
Region:	Victim's father: Samuel Wertheimer
Victim's mother: Maiden name: Uffenheimer	First name: Jeanette
Victim's husband/wife: two	No. of children: deceased
Family status:	Maiden name: Eisemann
First name: Sophie	
Address: DECEASED (USA)	Country: NJ
Region: N.J.C.	Permanent residence: 330 HAVEN AVE
Member of org./movement:	Place of work:
Profession:	Address:
Country:	Region:
Residence before deportation:	

Activities / events and activities during the war (prison / deportation / ghetto / camp / death march / hiding / escape / resistance / combat):

Date of death: summer 1943

Country: Poland

Region: Madjanek

Place of death: Madjanek

Circumstances of death:

deoted from France via Cure and Drancy on March 6, 1943

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this testimony is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Previous/maiden name:

Family name: Wertheimer

First name: Henry

Street: 411 Rutland Ave.

City: Teaneck

Apt.:

House no.:

State/Zip code: New Jersey

Relationship to victim: son

Phone no.: 201 837 6241

Country: US

1 son / 1 son not a survivor

Date: April 26, 1999 Place: Teaneck, N.J. Signature: Henry Wertheimer

Please Mail To: American Society for Yad Vashem • 500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600 • New York, NY 10110-1699

End of Nathan Wertheimer
Collection